1. Internet protocol based CCTV System with video analytics.
2. Access control.
3. Personal and baggage screening system.
4. Explosive detection and disposal system.

(ii) On the recommendations of Norms Committee, which had been formed for fixing scales/norms for procurement of modern security related equipment, Ministry of Railways have allocated Rs. 60.76 crore for procurement of security equipment to be used by the Railway Protection Force (RPF).

(iii) RPF has been upgraded with modern security gadgets like INSAS 5.56mm rifles, AK-47, SLR 7.62mm, Carbine 9 mm, Pistol Auto 9mm, Bullet Proof Jackets and Helmets, Walkie-Talkie, Hand Held Metal Detectors, Door Frame Metal Detectors, Dog Squad etc.

(iv) 5042 vacancies of non-gazetted posts have been filled up in various Zonal Railways so far.

(v) A Committee comprising of officers from Railways, RPF, IB, CISF, Delhi Police and NSG was constituted by the Ministry of Railways to formulate a Composite Security Plan for the Railways. The committee has submitted its report. It has been approved and the same is being implemented to strengthen security system of railways.

Modernization of signalling set up

2159. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to modernize the Railways' signalling set up in the country; and

(b) what is the time-frame and expenditure set up by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Steps taken for modernization of Signaling set up on Indian Railway include provision of Route Relay Interlocking / Panel Interlocking / Electronic Interlocking alongwith colour light signaling in replacement of old aged mechanical / multi-cabin system, LED signals in place of outdated filament type signals, Axle counter for proving auto clearance of block section, data loggers, complete track circuiting of station section, Automatic Block Signalling and on-board train protection system.

(b) Modernization of Signalling System is continuous process. The Signal Equipments on Indian Railway are progressively replaced / upgraded with modern system on age/condition/need basis.

The expenditure incurred on works for modernization of Signal and Telecom system over last three years are as under:

(Rs. inCrores)

Year	Expenditure
2005-06	1042.54
2006-07	1182.03
2007-08	1344.95

Further, an outlay of Rs. 1530 crore has been allocated in the current year 2008-09 for carrying out modernization.

Eastern-Western freight corridor

2160. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far, in the implementation of the Eastern-Western freight corridor proposal; and

(b) the fillip this is likely to give to faster movement of freight in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), namely, Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) formed to implement the project has taken up various preparatory works including land acquisition formalities, final location survey and appointment of consultants etc. For Western Corridor (1469 Kilometers), Final Location Survey (FLS) has been completed for 98% of the section. For Eastern Corridor (1280 Kilometers), Final Location Survey (FLS) has been completed for 99% of the Section.

(b) The Dedicated Freight Corridor Projects will help in enhancing capacity and bring down the unit operating cost and will also help in improving the quality of service to meet customer aspirations adequately through segregation of the freight and passenger streams. This would simultaneously improve passenger services on the existing corridors, which would get capacity relief through substantial reductions in the running of freight services.

Hurdle before new steel projects

2161. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of demand for steel growing at around 12 per cent annually, Government has planned to create more than 50 million tonnes of additional steel making capacity but land acquisition and environmental problems have effectively stalled all new projects;

(b) whether several State Governments have signed 195 Memoranda of Understanding with steel companies for putting additional 252.9 MT of steel capacity with an estimated aggregate investment of Rs. 5,55,038 crores;

(c) whether many of them have been stalled on issues such as land acquisition; and

(d) if so, the measures Government propose to take for full implementation of all these MoUs for increasing steel production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) In a de-regulated, liberalized economy, production of steel is influenced primarily by demand conditions (both local and global markets) and also by availability of raw materials to achieve the required level of production. Decisions related to production are taken essentially by the steel producing units. The Government in such a market set-up has the role of a facilitator only - it provides the overall policy environment to promote industry growth.